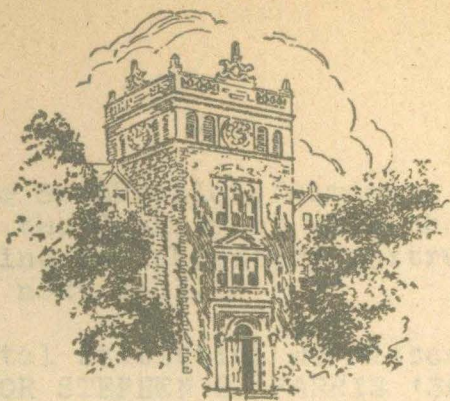


To the

# FRONT

November 29, 1945

Number 75



from

## MUHLENBERG

Dear Muhlenbergs:

We're all steamed up today because we have a hunch you are going to like this letter and get the same kick out of it that we got last night when the wires clicked out the news of the opening of Muhlenberg's basketball season. Two weeks ago we gave you a tip that from our little point of vantage it looked like another good season. We still think so!

Well to get down to the point, we opened the season last night with Princeton at Princeton and came home on the long end of a 62 to 36 score. The 12 men who made the trip to Princeton got into the game, first to be played under Coaches Schwartzwalder and Coker, and, while they were still green in spots, they looked mighty good according to the boys who saw the game. In spite of the score, their shooting was a bit off last night. I hope I'm not crowing too loudly, but I do believe--from everything I have seen and heard--that we'll have a season that we all can be mighty proud of and that will help us get even with those boys who were needling us all through that tortuous series of Saturday football scores.

Next Wednesday night we open the season here at home, playing LaSalle College of Philadelphia in Rockne Hall and the following Saturday night, December 8, we go to Philadelphia's Convention Hall to play Temple. On December 12 we play Penn State away and then comes the break until after the Christmas holidays. We hope just about all of you will be able to see the team in action sometime before the season closes the end of February.

We have high hopes too that the forthcoming campaign for the new Sports Building (we'll be telling you all about it very shortly) will produce the funds we need to build that new athletic center on the campus to give us not only a place to play our games in our own back yard, but a place where we can develop other good teams and give all of our students the facilities for a rounded program of sports and recreation. We're going to get that program under way just as soon after we have raised the funds for the building as we possibly can. The campaign among alumni and in the community will get under way in the very near future and we will be telling you all about it.

This Muhlenberg of ours is a great place in these days of reconversion--problems which Henry Ford and we have in common but which, with us, are so much more important because we are dealing with men who will mold the future rather than with automobiles or radios or refrigerators. I have a hunch that now and in the days and years ahead you will have every reason to be just as proud of Muhlenberg as you ever were. It's great to walk through the halls and the corridors and across the campus once again and see civilian students in the overwhelming majority. There are just a few more than 300 civilians on the campus this term against 80 Navy men. When the next term begins on March 1 the civilian population should take another marked jump and by next summer we may be just about back to normal.

We are sorry to have to report that Mrs. John A. W. Haas, widow of the Christian gentleman and scholar who for 32 years was President of Muhlenberg and who helped lay the foundations for the Greater Muhlenberg, died last Sunday morning. Members of the College student body served as pallbearers at her funeral yesterday. Men who were on the campus before 1936, the year Dr. Haas retired, will remember her particularly.

I believe that in the rush of things we forgot to tell you that John Trainer of the biology department began a year's leave of absence on November 1 and is completing his work for his doctorate degree at



Cornell. Meanwhile, Doc Shankweiler, always a bear for punishment, is handling the work in the department with the assistance of Bob Bohler '44, who is serving as laboratory instructor. Trainer will be returning to the campus next Fall.

There are a few vital statistics we missed telling you about last week. For example, MAJOR STEPHEN C. FARRIS '36, who recently returned from long internment in a Jap prison camp, was married to Anna S. Posivak of Bethlehem on November 23; ENSIGN RICHARD T. WEIDNER '43, late of the Navy, has been engaged to Jean E. Fritsch of Allentown, a niece of Dr. Robert R. Fritsch; and Grace E. Reichard of Allentown, JOE PODANY'S '42 Number 1 even before he entered service, has been engaged to the erstwhile Army sergeant.

We're really hard-pressed these days keeping up to date on all the boys being discharged from the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps--but it's mighty good to see them come back and to talk to them when they drop in on the campus. Just this morning we had a little visit with Marine LIEUTENANT MERLE WERTZ '43, who participated in the invasion of Guadalcanal and the attack on Iwo Jima and who laid aside his uniform on November 27. He's planning to come back to College on March 1 to finish another job as he helped end one out in the Pacific.

Another of the boys who really has seen action, MASTER SERGEANT KARL M. LEHR '36, got back on November 25 and looks mighty good in civvies. Karl was on board the USS ANCON from May 17, 1943 to July 30, 1944 while it was serving as the only Amphibious Group Command Ship in European waters. From that vantage point he saw the invasions of Sicily, Italy, and Normandy and did anti-submarine patrol duty in Tunisian waters. He also spent five months in London and six in Paris and before coming home was at the Shrivensham-American university in England. Early next year he will be a student again, working for his doctorate degree at the University of Wisconsin.

We missed seeing SERGEANT LEON McGROGAN '41 and STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM KECK '43 when they were in the other day, but both of them have been discharged from service. SERGEANT EDWIN MINNER '43 also was back in civvies and is getting set to be a college student again. He spent 15 months as a radio mechanic with the XII Air Force in Italy and seven months at an air base in Tunisia before he was discharged on November 19.

ENSIGN JOHN SWANK '43 hasn't laid his uniform aside as yet but he will as soon as he can find the proper shade of brown. He has been on terminal leave since November 13 and reverts to inactive status on January 5. Johnny spent four months in the Atlantic and 15 months in the Pacific on a patrol craft that served as control ship for practically all the Philippine actions, including the recapture of Corregidor. Another of our old friends back this week was 1st LIEUTENANT HERBY DOWD '43 with battle stars for all the Italian campaigns and the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster. He was wounded near Cassino in January 1944 and again near Bologna in October of that year. The Bronze Star is also among his decorations. His terminal leave ends December 16 and then he will be a civilian again, thinking about some graduate work.

LIEUTENANT (jg) EDGAR BROWN '43, just out of Seminary, said hello and goodbye enroute to his station at Newport, Va. He also brought the news that his classmates, LIEUTENANT (jg) PAUL MORENTZ and LIEUTENANT (jg) BERTRAM GILBERT had been assigned to Mare Island and Jacksonville, respectively. Morentz may find his assignment somewhat difficult because of the great distance between New York and California.

From now on we'll have to be our own checker-upper because SERGEANT CARL RITTER '30, who kept tabs on these letters during his 22 months in England and France, is back in the states and a civilian again. Carl helped keep the boys in line as a member of a military police battalion. STAFF SERGEANT LEWIS COTANIS '43 of the Marines laid aside his uniform on November 19 after being overseas from June 1943 to October 1944. He served in the Bismarck Archipelago and in the Northern Solomons and won a Presidential Unit Citation at Bougainville. He too will join the ranks of civilian students at Muhlenberg after the first of the year.



STAFF SERGEANT WELLACE EBERTS '43, whose trumpet once was as familiar around Muhlenberg as the tower of the Ad Building, dropped in the other day all smoothed up in a brown herringbone. He got out of service on November 15 and is looking for a job somewhere close to Allentown. Overseas for a year, he was with a photo intelligence outfit that saw action in Normandy, France, and Germany.

We've also heard that CLARENCE BERNHARD '30, who was overseas for 32 months, has been discharged. He spent 19 months at Casablanca and the remainder of his overseas tour in Italy, combining his duties as a company clerk with playing with two orchestras, directing musicals and writing a bit of music that won him a few kind words from the right people. ENSIGN GEORGE GRUBE '44 came home from the Pacific in time to be married on November 11 to Marion Barry of Lititz. During his 16 months in Pacific waters he served on an LCI that was one of the gunboats firing rockets to clear the beaches for the invasion forces at Okinawa and Pelilieu. He will be in the Navy for a little while longer. RICHARD CALLAHAN '47, who was commissioned by the Navy on November 2, has been ordered to the Naval Mine Warfare School at Yorktown, Va.

Before we leave the diary we can tell you that CAPTAIN ROBERT H. DILCHER '33 of the Army Medical Corps has been discharged after nearly four years of service and has established a temporary office at 210 E. Willow Grove Ave., Chestnut Hill, while he takes a graduate course in urology at the Graduate School of Medicine of Temple University. We can tell you too that CAPTAIN FRED DRY '37, Army medico who has figured in the news and in these letters, has opened offices in Emmaus; and that COMMANDER HARRY "TODDY" GOOD '28 is on terminal leave and about to open his offices in Allentown. While in the Navy he was made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

We told you at the beginning of this letter that we are all steamed up today and one of the reasons is that there is plenty to tell you. Incidentally, Elsie and Kitty are back on the job helping to knock this out to you and the Ladies Auxiliary of the College is still faithfully providing the volunteers who help with the mailing. Here goes with the mail report:

LIEUTENANT ARLAN BOND '42 wrote from France on November 9 that he was on his way to Le Havre and expected to be home long before Christmas. He's a neighbor of ours down on Allen St. and it will be good to see him back. He has been overseas for more than two years and from the action he has seen will have his share of stories. Jumping over to Hong Kong we can visit with ENSIGN BOB HALE '44 who expects to be there for some time, enjoying the mysteries of the Orient. In Europe, COL. FRANK M. BROWN '19, now Theatre Chaplain in the Mediterranean theatre, recently flew to France and Switzerland and brought back 3500 pounds of German Bibles and Testaments for war prisoners in Italy. CHAPLAIN BOB NEUMEYER '42 has gone to sea on the USS CAPE JOHNSON for the pleasant task of bringing men back from the Philippines.

Talking about bringing men back, the SS MUHLENBERG VICTORY, converted into a troop carrier, left New York on Monday for France and will be bringing back its first load of American troops within two weeks. Here's hoping some Muhlenberg men get in on the first ride. Keep looking for that big gray hulk and, when you see it, you'll be excused if you let out a cheer.

CAPTAIN KENNY LAMBERT '39 is still in Germany where he has undertaken public health work with an American Military Government unit at Regensburg, near Munich. Only things missing are his wife and daughter. CAPTAIN NORT BEHNEY '36 is stationed at the 381st General Medical Dispensary at what once was Fort McKinley in the Philippines. A new dental clinic is being completed there and working conditions, he says, are fine. After taking part in the Okinawa campaign, LIEUTENANT ALEX BUSBY '42 welcomed the news of Victory in Subic Bay and on his birthday, September 18, sailed into Tokyo Bay. There he met his brother, Dick, and they made a sightseeing jaunt together through Yokosuka, Yokohama, and Tokyo, deciding, incidentally, that the United States Forces did a thorough job of destruction. For the past two months ENSIGN DAVE GOTTLIEB '44 has been busy carrying occupation forces from Okinawa to Korea. In Jinsen he met ENSIGN JIM WILDER '45, part of a Navy fighter direction



team working aboard a destroyer. Early in November BILL GRIFFIN '37 left India for the United States and is expected home early in December. LIEUTENANT HARRY STRAUSS '40 is still on the ball over in Europe and we suspect his job is still helping to send the boys back home. ST. CLAIR DAVIDSON '32, who served with both the Canadian and the American forces in this war, was discharged on September 21 and now is a resident manager in the John Wanamaker Men's Store in New York.

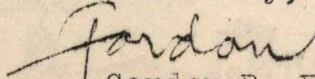
We like to get those letters that say, "I'm on my way home." We had one the other day from LEON GODSCHOLL '32, who left his ship in North China waters on October 4 and who should be back here by this time. A telegram from my kid brother, TECHNICAL SERGEANT NOBLE FISTER '39, brought the good news that he arrived in Seattle on Thanksgiving Day after a tour of duty on Okinawa and within a short time would be discharged after almost five years in khaki. Another letter of the same kind came from RT2/c ROY WERTZ '31, who left his ship, the USS MONA ISLAND on October 31 and early in November left Guam for Frackville.

CHAPLAIN PAUL KIDD '42 says he has a nifty little chapel to work in down at the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor and that he is rooming with CHAPLAIN LARRY REESE '37. Because the Navy point system puts a very high premium on matrimony and because LIEUTENANT ED ROBERTSON '42 can't claim those extra points, he says discharge is still some way distant. He's back in Hawthorne on leave and expects to be assigned to duty in the New York area, after months, or has it been years, overseas. We told you about ENSIGN JIM WILDER '45 a few paragraphs back, but forgot to say that he was aboard three separate destroyers for the Okinawa operation. The first sank after three Kamikazas ripped 50 feet off the bow, the second went back to the States for repairs after it too was hit, but the third managed to last out the war. LIEUTENANT (jg) JIM HEMSTREET '44 wrote from Buckner Bay in Okinawa where his LCT was undergoing some changes prior to a trip to Tokyo. Sl/c ED JONES '46 wrote his last letter from Sesebo, Kyushu, at one time one of Japan's greatest Naval bases. ENSIGN HAROLD McCULLOUGH V-44 dropped us a line from San Francisco where he was waiting to be sent to his ship at Okinawa. Still located in Winterbach, just north of Stuttgart, Germany, CORPORAL ERNEST WALLANDER '46 recently broke the monotony with a week on the Riviera. Over in a little town near Paris, with war prisoners to do most of the work, STAFF SERGEANT JOE FISKE '45 is waiting his chance to come home, having counted 62 points for himself.

There's just a little space left for a glance at the stateside mail from: CLARENCE TROXELL V-44, who expects to receive his degree from Yale, courtesy of the Navy, in February; CORPORAL ROBERT BLANCK '47, who is training with the Army Air Forces at Shaw Field, S.C.; PRIVATE DON HOCK '32, being trained in criminal investigation at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; CAPTAIN C.J. MERKLE '29, teaching maps and photos to officer candidates at The Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Va.; JOE EGAN '47, who reports that he and ALBERT ESHBACH, JAMES EATON, JOHN WEABER, WILLIAM GLASS, and FLOYD LEPPERD, all of the V-12 unit, have been transferred from the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River, Md. to St. Mary's College, California; SERGEANT DICK WEBSTER '44, who is playing on the basketball team at Tyndall Field and serving as an instructor; COMMANDER JAMES MILLER '24, a civilian again practicing medicine in Winchester, Va.; NATHAN KUNKLE '30, transferred from the Rehabilitation Training School at Hunter College to the St. Albans Naval hospital in New York and waiting for an early transfer to his old job as principal of the Delaware Water Gap High School; and Sl/c WILLARD KINDT '46, now in LT. JOHN WAGNER'S bailiwick down at Bainbridge.

There was so much news this week that we had to skip the promotions again and that doesn't mean that the boys haven't been getting them. We'll save them until the next time and until then--good luck to you, keep them rolling, and remember when you come home the welcome mat is out here at Muhlenberg.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister  
For the Alumni Office